



EC-2002 030
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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 20 1998

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

CERTIFIED MAIL --
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Robert R. Snipes, Jr., President
R.R. Snipes Construction Co., Inc.
703 Air Park Road
Ashland, VA 23005

RE: NOTICE OF VIOLATION: File No. AED/MSEB - 4836

Dear Mr. Snipes:

On February 10, 1998, authorized representatives of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) inspected one low sulfur diesel storage tank, one high sulfur diesel storage tank, and three motor vehicles owned, operated, and controlled by R.R. Snipes Construction Co., Inc., located in Ashland, Virginia. The inspection was conducted to determine compliance with § 211 of the Clean Air Act (the Act), 42 U.S.C. § 7545, and the regulations issued thereunder (40 C.F.R. Part 80). Where inappropriate fuels are used in internal combustion engines the emissions of harmful gases can increase significantly. Notwithstanding improvements in vehicle emission controls, emissions from motor vehicles continue to make up a very large portion of all air pollution. Congress has established a program of improvement and regulation of fuels to protect our air quality from unnecessary pollution associated with the misfueling of vehicles.

Section 211(g)(2) of the Act prohibits any person from introducing, or causing or allowing the introduction, into any motor vehicle diesel fuel which such person knows or should know contains a concentration of sulfur in excess of 0.05% after October 1, 1993. This law subjects violators to a maximum civil penalty of \$25,000 per day for each violation in addition to recovery of the amount of the economic benefit or savings resulting from the violation.

As a result of our inspection EPA has determined that diesel fuel, having a sulfur content in excess of the sulfur standard, was introduced into the fuel tanks of a 1987 International tractor truck owned, operated, and controlled by R.R. Snipes Construction Co., Inc., in violation of section 211(g)(2) of the Act. Therefore, R.R. Snipes Construction Co., Inc., is liable for one misfueling violation.

Sections 211 and 205 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7545 and 7524, authorize the Administrator of EPA to assess a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 for every day of each such violation and the economic benefit or savings resulting from the violation. Section 205(c) further authorizes the Administrator to compromise or remit, with or without conditions, any such penalty. After consideration of the magnitude and gravity of the violation, and your history of compliance with the Clean Air Act and the Fuels Regulations, we propose a civil penalty for the violation alleged in this Notice of \$1,500.00.

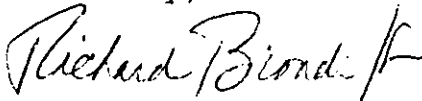
We encourage settlement of such matters rather than initiating litigation in the federal courts. The settlement process provides substantial flexibility for reducing the statutory penalty particularly if the alleged violations are corrected promptly. If we cannot settle this matter promptly we reserve the right to file an administrative complaint or refer this matter to the United States Department of Justice with a recommendation to file a civil complaint in federal district court.

Please contact the following EPA official who has been assigned to this case:

Jacqueline Robles Werner, Esquire
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mobile Source Enforcement Branch
Air Enforcement Division (2242A)
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460
Telephone: (202) 564-1036

Please let me once again emphasize that while we take our obligation to enforce these requirements seriously we will make every effort to reach an equitable settlement.

Sincerely,



Bruce C. Buckheit, Director
Air Enforcement Division